



Board of Harbor Commissioners for Portland Harbor

April 21, 2023

Chris Mayo
Director of Ports and Marine Transportation
16 State House Station, Augusta ME 04333

Dear Chris,

Attached please find, for inclusion with the Portland Harbor Dredge portion of the PIDP grant proposal submission, a single PDF file containing letters of support from pier owners, business owners, and others around Portland Harbor.

Included are letters from:

Pier Owners

Centerboard Yacht Club, Marshall Pillsbury
Chandler's Wharf, Gail Adkins
Cianbro/Ricker's Wharf, Parker Hadlock
Custom House Wharf, Kevin Casey
DiMillo's Yacht Sales/DiMillo's Marina, Luke DiMillo
Fore Points Marina, David Senus
GEF LLC/Fishermen's Wharf, Fred Forsley
Merrill's Wharf, Daniel Jacques
Port Harbor Marine, Michael Soucy
Port Hole Restaurant, John Jabar
Portland Shipyard, Phineas Sprague, Jr.
South Port Marina, Kip Reynolds
Turner's Island, Roger A. Hale
Union Wharf, Don Perkins
Union Wharf Street/Custom Float, Charlie Poole

Government

City of Portland, Kate Snyder, Mayor
City of South Portland, Kate Lewis, Mayor (letter coming Monday)

Waterfront businesses and organizations

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, Curtis Bohlen
Casco Bay Island Transit District, Henry Berg
Friends of Casco Bay, Ivy Frignoca
Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Don Perkins
Maine Lobstering Union, Bill Coppersmith
Portland Pilots, Inc., Calvin Klopp

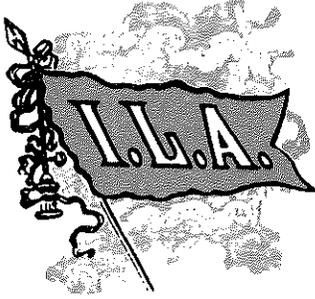
2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 105 • Portland, ME 04101
Telephone (207)772-8121 • **email** phm.admin@portlandharbor.org

Portland Discovery Tours, Bill Frappier
Portland Docking Pilots, Brian Fournier
Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce, Quincy Hentzel
Portland Tugboats LLC, Brian Fournier
Propeller Club, Walter Russell, Jr.
SailMaine, Ben Lewis

Please reach out to our office if you should have any questions.

Respectfully,

Maya Howard
Assistant Harbor Master



REG. US PATENT OFFICE

New England Dock and Marine Council

137 Whites Point Rd, Standish, ME 04084

President – Bernard O’Donnell

Vice President – George McEvoy

Sect./Treas. – Jack Humeniuk

Marshall – John Martenelli

President Emeritus – William R. McNamara

International Longshoremen’s Association

Affiliated with the A.F.L.-C.I.O. and Canadian Labor Congress

LOCAL

- 799
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April 23, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
 Secretary
 U.S. Department of Transportation
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
 Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the Secretary/Treasurer of the New England Dock and Marine Council I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project. For close to 50 years I have been involved in every aspect of port development in the Port of Portland.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for most of the day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for us to simply rent another storefront and move a water-based business to another part of the city.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers’ function but will increase their value and the value of landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,

Jack Humeniuk
 Secretary Treasurer
 New England Dock and Marine Council

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590



Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for most of the day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for us to simply rent another storefront and move a water-based business to another part of the city.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,


Robert Connolly
President
International Longshoremen's Association
Local 861
Portland Maine

April 10, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to express the Greater Portland Council of Government's strong support for the State of Maine's 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) application.

As greater Portland's Economic Development District, GPCOG understands that for marine industries, the economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for vessels. Due to past decades of environmental contamination in the harbor it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance.

As a result, much of the berthing space is either accessible only a few hours on either side of high tide or not usable at all. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for water dependent business to pick up and move. Our region's marine industries are tied to the harbor, and the harbor needs maintenance.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for more than a decade. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of the landside properties. Furthermore, the project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project sponsors, the community at large, and private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially.

The Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Kristina Egan
Executive Director
Greater Portland Council of Governments



Determination Marine LLC.

36 Union Wharf, Box 15

Portland, Maine, 04101

www.determinationmarine.com

207-352-9000

info@determinationmarine.com

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project. The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for most of the day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for us to simply rent another storefront and move a water-based business to another part of the city.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place. Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,

Parker Poole IV- 
Owner Determination Marine LLC. Portland Maine



April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of South Portland, Maine, our residents, and citizens, I write to express our strongest support of and for funding of the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project which is included in the 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Application being submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT). This project is a collaboration of by the Cities of South Portland and Portland, the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation.

As South Portlanders, we are privileged to live, work, and play in a community and region with such beautiful and productive natural resources, particularly our water resources. Our rivers, estuaries, harbor, and bay define the geography of our community. Water also frames our identity as a City. Being a port is integral to our character and confers a significance about who we have been, who we are today, and who we aspire to be.

Unfortunately, today we find our harbor in a diminished state of repair. Generations of sediment build up around our historic piers and wharfs has polluted our ecological resources and diminished our ability to work and recreate on the water. Commercial fishing, island ferry service, freight transportation, marine tourism, and other maritime enterprises are bricks in the foundation of our marine economy. Every foot of usable pier edge lost to sedimentation erodes this foundation and diminishes our ability to serve these community-defining industries.

While our heritage of maritime enterprise remains a point of community pride, it is in our future where the ocean holds our fate. New maritime industries are taking hold on our shores. A burgeoning Aquaculture sector holds promise to feed the world and absorb carbon from the atmosphere, helping counter the impacts of climate change. Ocean energy, from both wind and tides, holds promise to provide abundant, clean, and renewable energy sources to power our future. Both traditional and emerging uses of the ocean require full access to our harbor assets. Our piers, wharfs, ramps, and yards provide that access. Without investment, we lose access to the ocean. Without dredging, *South Portland will lose the port.*

This project is the culmination of several years of collaborative work and frankly, we are at a tipping point. Simply put, without the funding provided from the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant, we will not be able to restore our harbor assets to optimal vitality. I cannot overstate the value of our harbor and the economic benefits derived from its use. As our community and economies diversify, we must retain and expand our relationship to the ocean. Many of South Portland's residents, particularly those in our new Mainer and immigrant populations, work in the fishing and seafood processing sectors, earning good wages for important work. This project will help keep and expand those employment opportunities.

We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project so that we can invest in the future of our working waterfront. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,


Katherine W. Lewis, Mayor

PIDP

**Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project
Support Letters**

Pier Owners

Centerboard Yacht Club
P.O. Box 2123
South Portland, ME 04116



April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

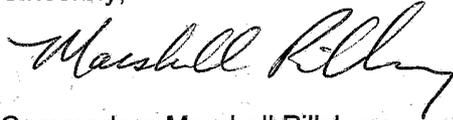
I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project. The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for most of the day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for us to simply rent another storefront and move a water-based business to another part of the city.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marshall Pillsbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Commodore Marshall Pillsbury

Centerboard Yacht Club
271 Front Street
South Portland, ME 04106



**DIRIGO
MANAGEMENT
COMPANY**

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Chandlers Wharf Owners Association writes to express strong support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

Chandlers Wharf Owners Association is a 90 unit residential condominium association with 76 marina boat slips located on a wharf in the middle of Portland harbor on the Fore Ricer. Chandlers Wharf owners benefit from being able to live on the wharf and step foot off of the wharf to their boat. Access to and from the slips effects the marketability of the residential units and slips which is why Chandlers Wharf Owners Association is supportive of this project. As waterfront owners, Chandlers Wharf Owners Association supports the efforts of their working waterfront neighbors. The fishing boats, tour boats, and seagulls are what bring buyers to Chandlers Wharf.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, even Chandler's Wharf is experiencing encroachment on our marina slips. For us to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance might not be feasible. As a result, some of our berthing space is barely accessible during low tide. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that we will lose some of the marina slips.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to make the necessary improvements to our effected slips. The improvements our business will make as a result of the completion of this project will increase the value of the slips and the value of the landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and we, the private owners, are all supportive of the work



ONE CITY CENTER, PORTLAND, MAINE 04101-6409

19 MAIN ST, STE 104, KENNEBUNK, ME 04043-7906

TEL: (207) 871-1080 • FAX (207) 871-7189

E-MAIL: info@dirigomgmt.com • WEB SITE: www.dirigomgmt.com

and prepared to support the project financially. All but this last portion of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

We are pleased to be able to join with other waterfront owners to be part of this dredging project.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Atkins".

Gail Atkins, CMCA, AMS
Senior Property Manager

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We strongly support the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for us as a small business to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for the rest of the 24-hour day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that my business - and those of fellow pier owners - will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for me to simply rent another storefront and move my water-based business to another waterfront.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements our business will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of the landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and we, the private business owners, are all supportive of the work and prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small business to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

CIANBRO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Parker Hadlock
General Manager

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

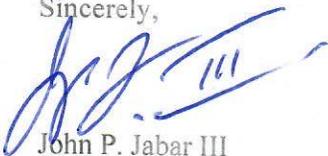
The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for most of the day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for us to simply rent another storefront and move a water-based business to another part of the city.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,



John P. Jabar III
Owner/Partner
Porthole Restaurant, Portland Maine

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for most of the day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for us to simply rent another storefront and move a water-based business to another part of the city.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,



Kevin Casey
Owner/Partner
Custom House Wharf, Portland Maine



April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We strongly support the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for us as a small business to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for the rest of the 24-hour day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that my business - and those of fellow pier owners - will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for me to simply rent another storefront and move my water-based business to another waterfront.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements our business will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of the landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and we, the private business owners, are all supportive of the work and prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small business to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,
Christopher DiMillo
DiMillo's Old Port Yacht Sales

www.dimillos.com

One Long Wharf Portland, ME 04101 tel 207.773.7632	423 US Route One Freeport, ME 04032 tel 207.865.0432	48 Bowen Road Kittery, ME 03390 tel 207.632.0557	128 Shore Road Glen Cove, NY 11542 tel 516.623.6256	202 Bank Street Oxford, MD 21654 tel 410.226.0100	846 Shady Oaks Road West River, MD 20778 tel 410.267.1808
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Fore Points Marina

1 Marina Way, Portland, Maine 04101

April 21, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We strongly support the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

As the owner / operator of a 14-acre marina containing 150-seasonal slips and hundreds of feet of dedicated transient vessel dockage, we rely, and our customers rely on the ability to navigate Portland Harbor and our submerged lands safely and efficiently. The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for any one business to complete the necessary dredging to maintain the near- and long-term viability of our critical berthing space.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. It is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing infrastructure to provide a critical amenity for local and transient berthing of vessels in our marina, and dredge maintenance of the harbor is critical to ensuring that we can continue to make these investments. The improvements our business will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how our marina accommodates local and transient vessels but will increase the value of adjacent landside properties.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and we, a private business owner, are all supportive of the work and prepared make additional financial investment in our business. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our successful small business to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on Portland's waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

David Senus, Director of Planning & Design
207.210.7035 or email: das@portlandforeside.com

GEF LLC – Fishermen’s Wharf

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We strongly support the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for us as a small business to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for the rest of the 24-hour day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that my business - and those of fellow pier owners - will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for me to simply rent another storefront and move my water-based business to another waterfront.

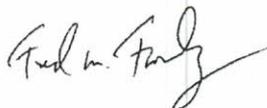
The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements our business will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of the landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and we, the private business owners, are all supportive of the work and prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small business to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,



P. O. Box 2808
South Portland, ME 04116
www.shipyard.com

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 18, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the owners of Merrill's Wharf, we are in strong support of the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland pier owners continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for us to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, some of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and some is not accessible at all. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that our property, and those of fellow pier owners, will face critical, even insurmountable hardships. Unlike other infrastructures, it is not possible to accommodate new waterfront dependent business, and properly service our existing berthing tenants, all waterfront dependent business.

The city of Portland, the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working together to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is finally underway, our plan is to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and be able to expand our berthing. The improvements our business will make because of the completion of this project will not only improve how our pier functions, it will also protect its history and value. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we simply cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

I understand that this project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the project sponsors, the community at large; and we, as a private business owner, are supportive of the work and prepared to support our portion of the project financially. As the final piece of funding has been allocated, it only needs the federal match for this essential project to begin.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for both the State of Maine and greater New England. More importantly, it is impossible for our 34 yearlong stewardship of this successful pier to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and give approval to this critical project and those families who rely on the working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dan Jacques
Waterfront Maine



1 Spring Point Dr. South Portland, ME
207-767-3254
www.portharbormarine.com

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We strongly support the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for us as a small business to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for the rest of the 24-hour day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that my business - and those of fellow pier owners - will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for me to simply rent another storefront and move my water-based business to another waterfront.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements our business will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of the landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and we, the private business owners, are all supportive of the work and prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small business to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Soucy
Director of Operations
Port Harbor Marine

Portland Yacht Services and Portland Ship Yard

100 West Commercial Street
Portland, Maine 04102

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 18, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project is about the State and Federal government taking care of the economic engine for the State of Maine. The crazy thing about this pleading is that we don't own these submerged lands. They belong to the State. The City, State, and Federal Government derive their income and fund social programs from taxes on our profits, payroll, and property values. This project is an investment in future revenues. Every cubic yard of dredge material removed to keep the harbor viable belongs to the State of Maine.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts are threatened. There is no commitment to an economically viable waterfront. The commercial fishing industry has no long-term plan because the wharf owner's expenses are skyrocketing. Without berthing, there is a catch-22 that is spiraling the waterfront away from multimodal commercial uses. This waisting is NOT through lack of trying on our part. There will be no next generation of commercial wharfingers. Most of my friends have left the waterfront, and I will not allow my children to work in my business. My time is limited.

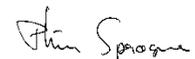
The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for many years. Once the project is underway, we will expand our shipyard by utilizing the dredged areas for a new travelift basin and wetdocking of larger vessels, as the offshore wind projects require more support facilities. The improvements will increase City, State, and Federal revenues and provide jobs. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, there will be no commercial vessels from the Portland area for us to work on.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and the private business owners all support the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last funding has been allocated and only needs the federal match for this critical project to occur.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, small businesses can't continue without an economically vibrant infrastructure to build upon. Therefore, I respectfully request that you commit to the working waterfront and the next generations so the children can continue the legacy.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Phineas Sprague, Jr.
President



Long. 70° 15' 13" W

Lat.
43°
38'
30"
N



**SOUTH
PORT**
M · A · R · I · N · E

14 Ocean Street • So. Portland, Maine 04106
(207) 799-8191 • Fax (207) 767-5937

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 18, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We strongly support the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for us as a small business to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for the rest of the 24-hour day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that my business - and those of fellow pier owners - will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for me to simply rent another storefront and move my water-based business to another waterfront.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements our business will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of the landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and we, the private business owners, are all supportive of the work and prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small business to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,


Ryan Wheeler
Prop. / CEO



ROGER A. HALE
40 Mechanic St.
So. Portland, ME 04106

TEL: (207) 767-1200
FAX: (207) 767-1277
www.turnersisland.com

TURNERS ISLAND LLC
CARGO HANDLING
SHIP REPAIR • BULK STORAGE

April 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We strongly support the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for us as a small business to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for the rest of the 24-hour day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that my business - and those of fellow pier owners - will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for me to simply rent another storefront and move my water-based business to another waterfront.

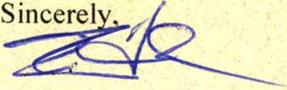
The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements our business will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of the landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and we, the private business owners, are all supportive of the work and prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small business to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Roger A. Hale
Fore River Dock & Dredge Inc.
Turners Island LLC

PROPRIETORS OF UNION WHARF
ESTABLISHED 1793

April 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We strongly support the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for us as a small business to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for the rest of the 24-hour day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that my business - and those of fellow pier owners - will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for me to simply rent another storefront and move my water-based business to another waterfront.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements our business will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of the landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and we, the private business owners, are all supportive of the work and prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small business to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Charles A Poole, President
Proprietors of Union Wharf
11 Wallace Ave
South Portland, ME 04106



Union Wharf LLC

April 14, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We, as owners of Union Wharf in Portland, ME, write in strong support of the City of Portland and City of South Portland's Port Infrastructure Development Program grant application entitled, *Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project*.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine providing public and private infrastructure that supports many diverse industries. The Cities around Portland Harbor are home to the largest population center north of Boston and are a regional financial, retail, transportation, and service hub. For the marine economy, the economic activity and value of the waterfront has been limited and increasingly threatened by the lack of adequate berthing due to the shallow depth between the piers caused by decades of sediment accumulation. Full tide accessible berthing is the foundational resource of a commercial waterfront.

We recently acquired Union Wharf, part of the Portland Harbor marine economy since its construction in 1793. Union Wharf provides a base of operations for many marine businesses needing critical water access infrastructure. All 1700-feet of berthing on Union Wharf is occupied by working vessels. This dredge project will ensure that Portland Harbor will remain a viable and safe working port for years to come.

We are aware that this project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. With these permits in place, the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you consider this important project for award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Donald W. Perkins
President/CEO

PIDP

**Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project
Support Letters**

Government

Kate Snyder
Mayor
City of Portland
April 20, 2023



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Portland, I write in strong support for the State of Maine's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Application.

As residents of Portland, we are privileged to live, work, and play in the City by the Sea. Our rivers, estuaries, harbor and bay define the geography of our community. Water also frames our identity as a city. Our name, *Portland*, has relevance to who we are, what we do, and to what we aspire. We are a port city: and as a port city, the harbor is our chief asset.

Unfortunately, Portland Harbor is in danger. Decades of sediment build-up around our historic piers and wharves has polluted our ecological resources. In addition, commercial fishing, island ferry service, freight transportation, marine tourism, and other maritime enterprises - bricks in the foundation of our economy - have suffered from every lost foot of usable pier edge.

Our city's history of maritime enterprise remains a point of community pride; our future depends on its survival and expansion. New maritime industries are taking hold on Portland's waterfront. Aquaculture holds promise to feed a hungry world while removing carbon from the atmosphere. Ocean energy - from both wind and tides - may revolutionize the delivery of sustainable energy. Waterborne freight remains the most efficient mode of transport for large volumes of material and removes trucks from congested roadways. Without investment in the Portland Harbor, we lose access to the ocean and the benefits of these new industries.

I respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project so that we can invest in the future of our working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Snyder".

Kate Snyder, Mayor
City of Portland, Maine

PIDP

**Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project
Support Letters**

Waterfront Businesses and Organizations



April 19, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP), I am writing to express our support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project. The proposed effort is critical to ensuring the long-term economic viability of dozens of businesses along the working waterfront of Portland and South Portland.

CBEP is one of 28 National Estuary Programs sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the only located entirely in Maine. Our mission is to help conserve the ecological integrity of Casco Bay and its watershed through science, public stewardship, and effective management. We represent a collaborative effort of people and organizations interested in protecting and restoring the Bay, including the private sector, local governments, non-profit organizations, and state and federal agencies. CBEP implements our Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), the *Casco Bay Plan 2016-2021*. This community-based plan explicitly identified the need for a solution for disposal of potentially contaminated dredged material in Portland Harbor, under Action 3.2.C “Help Portland create a solution for dredged material disposal.”

Concern about toxic materials in Portland Harbor was one of the original concerns that led to the creation of the Casco Bay Partnership in 1991, when Casco Bay was designated as an estuary of national significance. The Estuary Partnership has worked ever since to understand toxic contaminants in Casco Bay and to find environmentally sound ways to dispose of contaminated sediments dredged from the harbor.

The Estuary Partnership sees a vibrant waterfront economy as an essential asset for the Cities of Portland and South Portland, and a defining part of our regional character. The harbor is the key symbolic and economic link between people and the Bay. Our working waterfront supports the lobster fishery, recreational boating, and our growing aquaculture sector, but it also defines the character of downtown Portland and helps attract tourists and visitors to our restaurants, hotels, and shops. The Greater Portland Metropolitan Area contains more than a third of Maine’s total population, making it the largest metropolitan area in northern New England, and a mecca of culture and diversity. Much of our area’s attraction is based on our marine businesses, and those businesses depend on access to waterfront facilities. Unfortunately, that access has been threatened over decades by shoaling in the slips adjacent to private and public piers in the harbor.

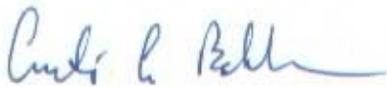
The proposed project would revitalize the harbor and support waterfront businesses by performing maintenance dredging around many private and public piers. The materials generated by dredging would be deposited in a Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cell. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) conducts maintenance dredging of the harbor's navigational channel on a regular basis, but the last dredging around most of the piers took place on the order of 75 years ago.

In 2007, the Estuary Partnership commissioned a study that concluded that the only cost-effective approach to disposal of potentially toxic dredged materials from the Harbor's private and public facilities would be through development of a CAD cell. The Board of Harbor Commissioners, the Harbor Master, Maine Port Authority, Maine Department of Marine Resources, U.S. EPA, and ACOE all served on the Portland Harbor Dredge Committee, convened by CBEP in 2007 to coordinate federal dredging and develop options for dredging around private and public piers. Now, more than a fifteen years later, we have detailed designs both for dredging and safe disposal, and the necessary permits are in hand to proceed.

Since 1991, the Estuary Partnership has commissioned multiple studies characterizing persistent toxic chemicals in Casco Bay sediments. A recent review of more than 20 years of data demonstrated that we are putting fewer and fewer persistent toxics into the Bay. The Bay's shallow surface sediments, which accumulated on the bottom of the Bay recently, are cleaner than the older, deeper sediments. Our independent review of data provided by Campbell Scientific revealed that the (mostly older) sediments to be dredged from the harbor during this project contain elevated levels of PCBs, DDT residues, and other contaminants. Dredging contaminants from the harbor and burying them within the CAD cell will reduce the likelihood of exposure of people or marine organism to toxic contaminants.

This project will not only restore the piers to working order, but also improve the ecological health of the harbor and the Bay. For these reasons, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership is strongly supportive of the proposed project.

Sincerely,



Curtis C. Bohlen, PhD
Director, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership



Casco Bay Lines

Serving the Islands of Casco Bay from Portland, Maine

April 21, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for vessels. Due to the decades of environmental contamination in the harbor it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of the berthing space is accessible only a few hours on either side of high tide and not accessible more than half of the time. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible to simply rent another storefront and move a water-based business to another waterfront or inland.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of the landside properties.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

The Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Henry Berg
General Manager
Casco Bay Island Transit District
56 Commercial Street
Portland, ME 04101
T: 207-774-7872
E: hankb@cascobaylines.com



Friends of Casco Bay Casco BAYKEEPER

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Friends of Casco Bay Support for Maine DOT and Portland Harbor
Commission Application for Port Infrastructure Development Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Friends of Casco Bay supports the above application for a Port Infrastructure Development Grant to dredge Portland Harbor and construct a CAD Cell to encapsulate contaminated sediment. For over 30 years, Friends of Casco Bay has worked to improve and protect the health of Casco Bay and its watershed. While most letters of support will focus on the significant economic impact the dredge will have for Portland and South Portland, we focus on this unprecedented opportunity to remove legacy contaminants from the harbor to improve benthic habitat. The timing of the dredge coincides with significant efforts by both cities to reduce stormwater and CSO pollution to the harbor.

The dredge will remove toxic sediments around wharves that have accumulated for over seven decades. We have analyzed the data collected to date and believe that most of these toxins were discharged by industries that populated the wharves prior to the advent of the Clean Water Act. The remainder of contaminants likely comes from more recent combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and stormwater discharges. Because the cities are aggressively working to reduce stormwater and CSO pollution, now is an ideal time to dredge the toxic sediments from the harbor to forever improve benthic habitat and public recreation.

With respect to the proposed dredge, we have worked with both cities and with the Portland Harbor Commission. These entities sought input from diverse stakeholders, including us and lobstermen. They took our advice and proposed a CAD cell siting outside of critical habitat and lobster grounds. They also met with us and designed their permit application to include terms that ensure the least amount of environmental harm during dredging.

Because the proposed dredge will be done with sensitivity to environmental concerns and will remove toxic sediments, we support, recommend, and urge you to fund this application. Thank you for considering our comments and this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivy L. Frignoca
Casco Baykeeper

Board of Directors

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Andrew V. Marsters, *Portland*

Vice President
Kirsten Piacentini, *Cumberland Foreside*

Clerk
Patricia Ianni, *Falmouth*

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Megan Hallett, *Falmouth*
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Founding President

Casco BAYKEEPER
Ivy Frignoca, *Cumberland Center*

Casco BAYKEEPER, Emeritus
Joseph E. Payne, *Westbrook*

Executive Director
Will Everitt, *Portland*

April 14, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, as owners of Wright's Wharf in Portland, ME, write in strong support of the City of Portland and City of South Portland's Port Infrastructure Development Program grant application entitled, *Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project*.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine providing public and private infrastructure that supports many diverse industries. The Cities around Portland Harbor are home to the largest population center north of Boston and are a regional financial, retail, transportation, and service hub. For the marine economy, the economic activity and value of the waterfront has been limited and increasingly threatened by the lack of adequate berthing due to the shallow depth between the piers caused by decades of sediment accumulation. Full tide accessible berthing is the foundational resource of a commercial waterfront.

This project addresses these critical issues by performing maintenance dredging around each of the public and private piers in Portland Harbor and depositing the material in a Contained Aquatic Disposal Cell. This project will not only bring the piers themselves into a State of Good Repair, but will improve water quality, both of which will promote commercial economic growth and maintain a working waterfront – a vital aspect of the area.

We own and are located at Wright's Wharf, a 5.5-acre parcel in the middle of Portland's working waterfront which currently berths U.S. Coast Guard vessels on one side. The other side is unusable due to a deteriorated retaining wall and accumulated sediment. We are ready to repair the retaining wall and expand operations on our site, but we can't do so without first removing the accumulated sediment. This dredging work is critical to our ability to continue assistance of U.S. Coast Guard operations and set the stage for new investment on our wharf to support innovative fishing, aquaculture, and marine research ventures.

350 Commercial Street
Portland, ME 04101

tel (207) 772-2321
fax (207) 772-6855
www.gmri.org

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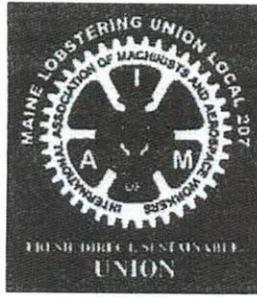
We are aware that this project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. With these permits in place, the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you consider this important project for an award. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Perkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donald W. Perkins
President/CEO



Maine Lobstermen's Union
Portland Working Waterfront Group

April 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Maine Lobstering Union Local 207, I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic value of the lobstering economy and the working waterfront are severely threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. More than seven decades of silt buildup has closed off hundreds of linear feet of vessel tie-up and timely access to the waterfront facilities we rely on for safely and efficiently landing and shipping our product.

The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that the iconic Maine lobstering economy will face critical, insurmountable hardships and will no longer be a part of Maine's most economically feasible shipping port. Direct access to local and international markets alike is essential to the quality of our product and the viability of the lobster industry.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, pier owners will not invest in shoreside improvements that keep our industry in step with the global economy. The Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project addresses the concerns of commercial fishermen, their small businesses, and their families, on whom the working waterfront depends and who the working waterfront directly affects. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only make our piers functional once again but will also increase their value to the local economy.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project

sponsors, the community at large, and the working waterfront are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last piece of funding has been allocated.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and iconic lobstering industry to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W Coppersmith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William Coppersmith
President
Maine Lobstering Union Local 207
Portland Working Waterfront Group



The Coast Watch & Guiding Light Navigation Company, Inc.

(207) 774-0808

P.O. Box 68, Portland, ME. 04112

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for most of the day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for us to simply rent another storefront and move a water-based business to another part of the city.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure. Our company Portland Discovery Land & Sea Tours has been operating boat tours in Casco Bay and Portland Harbor for the past 25 years. When we began our berths at Long Wharf and Fisherman's Wharf had a depth of 8 feet at low tide. Today we experience depths of less than 5 feet and our vessels often must push through the mud to operate. This situation becomes more dire with every passing year that dredging does not take place. The Portland Harbor Dredging Project is essential to the continued success of our business and the economic viability our working waterfront.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,

Capt. William J. Angier III

PORTLAND DOCKING PILOTS, INC.

P. O. BOX 64
BELFAST, ME 04915

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

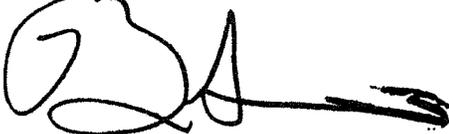
The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for most of the day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for us to simply rent another storefront and move a water-based business to another part of the city.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

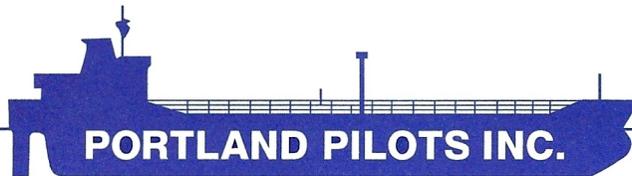
This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Fournier", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Capt. Brian J. Fournier, President
Portland Docking Pilots, Inc.



April 15, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

Portland is Maine's largest and busiest deep water shipping port. Crucial supply chain goods are shipped in and out of Portland constantly. They include, but are not limited to food, medical supplies, farming equipment, machinery, road salt, gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, asphalt, kerosene, heating oil, and as of the past year, military equipment to support the war in Ukraine. Portland Pilots operates two Pilot vessels, which carry us to and from the ships entering the port, to ensure safe and efficient flow of cargo through the port.

The pilot vessels require deep, sheltered wharfage, which, due to the lack of dredging, has become scarce. In addition to the shipping industry that supports the port, commercial fishing is also a major contributing industry in Casco Bay. Hundreds of fishing boats harbor in Portland and South Portland, ranging from small lobster boats to large offshore draggers. Over the years, it has become far more prevalent to see many of these boats grounded out at low water, unable to depart until the tide increases. Dredging must be completed in order to maintain these necessary industries. This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, all but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Finally, dredging will not only eliminate a lack of available deep water berthing space, but it will remove harmful contaminants embedded in the mud. I cannot stress the importance of this project to the port of Portland, and the entire State of Maine. Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible to provide pilot services to arriving vessels without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. Portland Pilots respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to port operations, and the men, women, and families of Maine who rely on critical supplies that arrive by sea.

Sincerely,

Captain Calvin Klopp, President



PORTLAND
Regional Chamber
of Commerce

443 Congress Street Portland, ME 04101 • (207) 772-2811
chamber@portlandregion.com • PortlandRegion.com

Cape Elizabeth • Cumberland • Falmouth • Gorham • Scarborough • South Portland • Portland • Westbrook

April 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce is writing to express strong support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for vessels. According to a recent study, Portland Harbor generates about \$800 million of total economic output that can be tied, either directly or indirectly, to our working waterfront and the commercial and recreational activities it supports. This project in question will support many businesses in our waterfront area, thousands of jobs and much of the overall economic output of the harbor. Fishermen are a key part of this economic picture, and in Portland Harbor they number over 500 with 48 million pounds of annual landings. As sediments continue to build up in the harbor and whittle away at the already strained supply of berthing space, pier owners will have to turn away from marine industries to afford the maintenance of their properties, favoring land uses like office and retail over our iconic marine industries.

Impressive collaboration has been shown between the cities of South Portland and Portland, the Portland Harbor Commission, other government agencies including the Maine Department of Transportation, and both business and environmental organizations. Furthermore, this state of good repair project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and the project sponsors, the community at large, and private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. This has put the project in a perfect place for success, with all necessary design and permits in hand, making this a truly shovel ready endeavor.

The Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Quincy Hentzel
President & CEO



PORTLAND TUGBOAT, LLC

40 Commercial Street, Suite 700, Portland, ME 04101

24-Hour Dispatch (207) 774-2902

April 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for most of the day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for us to simply rent another storefront and move a water-based business to another part of the city.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,

Capt. Brian Fournier
President



Propeller Club of Portland, Maine

To Promote, Further and Support an American Merchant Marine and to Aid in the development of needed River, Great Lakes and Harbor Projects.

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for most of the day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for us to simply rent another storefront and move a water-based business to another part of the city.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,

Walter H. Russell Jr.
President

Propeller Club of Portland, Maine
P.O. Box 7956
Portland, ME 04112
www.propellerclubportlandme.com



SailMaine
www.sailmaine.org

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for individual businesses to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for most of the day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that small businesses along the harbor will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for us to simply rent another storefront and move a water-based business to another part of the city.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements businesses will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and our private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. However, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Sincerely,

Ben Lewis
Director of Operations
SailMaine

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We strongly support the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for our vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for us as a small business to conduct the required maintenance dredging without assistance. As a result, much of our berthing space is accessible for only a few hours on either side of high tide and is not accessible for the rest of the 24-hour day. The longer the harbor goes without adequate maintenance dredging, the greater the likelihood that my business - and those of fellow pier owners - will face critical, insurmountable hardships. Unlike other small businesses, it is not possible for me to simply rent another storefront and move my water-based business to another waterfront.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. Once the project is underway, it is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing pier infrastructure and expand our pier infrastructure. The improvements our business will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how the piers function but will increase their value and the value of the landside properties as well. Without an avenue to bring the harbor into a state of good repair, we cannot secure the funding to improve our pier infrastructure.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and we, the private business owners, are all supportive of the work and prepared to support the project financially. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small business to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Daniel and Elaine Lilley
Sunset Marina Corporation